

Remarks

Claims 1-8 were pending in the present application. Claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice. The specification was objected to for an improper attempt to incorporate subject matter. Claims 1, 3, and 7 were objected to because of informalities. Claim 1 was provisionally rejected on the grounds of statutory provisional double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 7 of co-pending Application No. 10/612,753. Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite and providing insufficient antecedent basis for a limitation. Claims 1 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Berman (U.S. Pat. No. 6,185,203) in view of Berman (U.S. Pat. No. 6,118,776). Claims 2-6 and 8 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Claims 2, 3, and 7 have been amended, and claim 1 has been canceled, leaving claims 2-8 presently pending in the application. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application in view of the amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter with respect to claims 2-6 and 8. Claim 2 has been amended in independent form. Because claims 3-6 and 8 depend from claim 2, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance.

The specification was objected to for an improper attempt to incorporate subject matter. In particular, the Examiner stated that the reference to "Method and Apparatus for Switching Fibre Channel Arbitrated Loop Devices" is improper, because the U.S. Patent Application Number is missing.

The specification has been amended and now includes U.S. Patent Application Number 10/612,753 in the reference to "Method and Apparatus for Switching Fibre Channel Arbitrated Loop Devices." The specification has been further amended to correct a typographical error and [0381] now reads "through 112 the port" instead of "the port 112." With these amendments, it is respectfully submitted that the objection to the specification has been overcome.

Claims 1, 3, and 7 were objected to because of informalities. In particular, the Examiner suggested that the abbreviations “LIP” and “ALPA” be spelled out.

Claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice, rendering the objection to claim 1 moot. Claims 2, 3, and 7 have been amended to now spell out “LIP” as “Loop Initialization Primitive.” Claim 3 has been further amended to now spell out “ALPA” as “Arbitrated Loop Physical Address.” With these amendments, it is respectfully submitted that the objection to the claims has been overcome.

Claim 1 was provisionally rejected on the grounds of statutory provisional double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 7 of co-pending Application No. 10/612,753. Claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice, rendering the provisional rejection to claim 1 moot.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite and providing insufficient antecedent basis for a limitation. In particular, the Examiner stated that there was insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation “said first port” in line 7 of claim 1. Claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice, rendering the rejection to claim 1 moot.

Claims 1 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Berman (U.S. Pat. No. 6,185,203) [“Berman ‘203”] in view of Berman (U.S. Pat. No. 6,118,776) [“Berman ‘776”]. Claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice, rendering the rejection to claim 1 moot. The rejection of claim 7 is respectfully traversed.

The claimed present invention is generally directed to a new system and a method for non-overlapping or overlapping device zoning in Fibre Channel Arbitrated Loop Systems. Non-overlapping and overlapping device zoning can be carried out by selectively propagating a Loop Initialization Primitive (LIP) to one or more ports based off of a LIP isolation table. Non-stealth mode isolation either isolates LIP propagation to a specific zone or completely isolates a LIP-generating device from a loop. Stealth mode isolation, depending on the configuration, provides LIP propagation to no devices, a few devices, or the entire system. Note that the claimed invention

can be set in *a variety of configurations* to provide LIP isolation and reduce or manage unacceptable interruptions to loop traffic by LIP propagation.

In particular, an embodiment of the present invention can implement non-stealth mode isolation through a manual insert mode (LIP Blocking). LIPs are blocked prior to leaving the port based on a global isolation enable bit set in the router and port isolation enable bits set. The port isolation enable bits are set for certain ports based upon a predefined LIP blocking list. Blocked LIPs then do not influence other ports nor are they allowed to propagate around the full loop where the LIP itself originated.

In contrast, Berman '776 fails to disclose, teach, or suggest LIP blocking through the use of at least a global isolation enable bit and port isolation enable bit. Instead, Berman '776 discloses interconnecting Fibre Channel Arbitrated Loops composed of more than one Arbitrated Loop containing private loop devices with at least one loop adapted to contain storage and one loop containing a host. Specifically, Berman '776 monitors Fibre Channel SCSI Initiator port login input/output (PLOGI I/O) probes that are transmitted by a host to find SCSI (storage) devices. In order to alert the hosts of an addition of a storage device to a first Arbitrated Loop, Berman '776 transmits the LIP on all ports having Arbitrated Loops including a non-storage device, i.e. a host. The LIP is not transmitted to ports having Arbitrated Loops containing only storage devices. However, Berman '776 is silent on disclosing, teaching, or suggesting a variety of configurations, comprising at least of a global isolation enable bit and port isolation enable bit, to block LIPs to any specified port.

Furthermore, Berman '203 fails to make up for the deficiencies of Berman '776, because Berman '203 also fails to disclose, teach, or suggest this limitation. Berman '203 is seen to disclose a Fibre Channel Switching Fabric for simultaneously providing route requests from port control module to the router and providing route request responses to the same port control module. Because neither Berman '203 and Berman '776, alone or in combination, discloses, teaches, or suggests all of the limitations of claim 7, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of this claim

under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Berman '203 in view of Berman '776 has been traversed.

Claims 2-6 and 8 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 2 has been amended to independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim (claim 1, now withdrawn) and any intervening claims (none). Because claims 3-6 and 8 depend from claim 2, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-6 and 8 are now allowable.

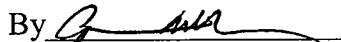
In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

If, for any reason, the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 892-5752 to discuss any steps necessary to place the application in condition for allowance.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing Docket No. 491442011623.

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Respectfully submitted,

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